

## THE CLAIMS

It is claimed:

- 1 1. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output  
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal  
4 into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the  
5 amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:
  - 6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
  - 7 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the  
8 computer program setting the volume control;
  - 9 c) generating a stimulus; and
  - 10 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user  
11 heard the stimulus.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the  
3 Internet.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program  
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an  
3 email.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from  
3 a single audio source.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the channel balance between electrical  
3 signals from a single audio source.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from  
3 a Wave source.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from  
3 a stream of digital audio data generated by the computer program.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from  
3 a plurality of audio sources.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a volume control that controls the channel balance of electrical  
3 signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals  
3 from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls the  
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes setting a first volume control that controls the channel balance of electrical  
3 signals from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls  
4 the channel balance of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further including:  
2 a) sending first data to the server;  
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 13. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the  
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output  
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal  
4 into a stimulus, the computer system having a volume control that controls the  
5 amplitude of the electrical signal, the method comprising:  
6 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;

- 7           b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the  
8           computer program storing a value of the volume control and setting the  
9           volume control;  
10          c) generating a stimulus;  
11          d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user  
12           heard the stimulus; and  
13          e) resetting the volume control to the stored values.

1   14.    The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer  
2   program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer  
3   via the Internet.

1   15.    The method of claim 13, wherein the act of downloading the computer  
2   program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer  
3   via an email.

1   16.    The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3   signals from a single audio source and setting a volume control that controls the  
4   amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

1   17.    The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3   signals from a Wave audio source and setting a volume control that controls the  
4   amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

1   18.    The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3   signals from a Wave audio source and setting a volume control that controls the  
4   amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data that was generated  
5   within the computer program.

1   19.    The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2   includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical

3 signals from a plurality of audio sources and setting a volume control that controls the  
4 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 20. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of executing the computer program  
2 includes storing the value of a first volume control that controls the amplitude of  
3 electrical signals from a single audio source, storing the value of a second volume  
4 control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio  
5 sources, setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals  
6 from a single audio source, and setting a second volume control that controls the  
7 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 21. The method of claim 13, further including:  
2 a) sending first data to the server;  
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and  
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 22. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,  
2 when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a  
3 user by:  
4 a) setting the volume control of the computer;  
5 b) generating a stimulus; and  
6 c) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the  
7 stimulus.

1 23. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume  
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3 signals from a Wave audio source.

1 24. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume  
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3 signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the computer program.

1 25. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume  
2 control includes setting a volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3 signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 26. The program storage device of claim 22, wherein the act of setting the volume  
2 control includes setting a first volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical  
3 signals from a single audio source and setting a second volume control that controls  
4 the amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 27. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,  
2 when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the hearing of a  
3 user by:

- 4 a) storing the value of the volume control
- 5 b) setting the volume control;
- 6 c) generating a stimulus;
- 7 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates whether or not the user  
8 heard the stimulus; and
- 9 e) resetting the volume control to the stored value.

1 28. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value  
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the  
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source.

1 29. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value  
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the  
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a Wave audio source.

1 30. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value  
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the  
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a stream of digital audio data generated within the  
4 computer program.

1 31. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value  
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a volume control that controls the  
3 amplitude of electrical signals from a plurality of audio sources.

1 32. The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of storing the value  
2 of the volume control includes storing the value of a first volume control that controls  
3 the amplitude of electrical signals from a single audio source and storing the value of  
4 a second volume control that controls the amplitude of electrical signals from a  
5 plurality of audio sources.

11/25/2010 10:00:00 AM